

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1-8. (Canceled)

9. (Presently Amended) A catheter head comprising:

a cannula housing having a cavity extending therethrough defining an internal surface and a first passage in communication with the cavity, the cannula housing further including a second passage for receiving a piercing needle;

a cannula extending from the cavity, the cannula having a flange extending radially therefrom;

a retaining body secured within the cavity and in cooperation with the internal surface to locate the flange within the cavity;

a needle holder comprising a guide sleeve axially surrounding a connecting needle; and

a guide extending from the cannula housing and cooperating with the guide sleeve to position the connecting needle into the passage;

wherein the piercing needle may be inserted through the passage in the cannula housing when the needle holder is secured to the cannula housing.

10. (Original) The catheter head of claim 9, wherein the guide sleeve comprises a closed jacket surface surrounding the connecting needle.

11. (Presently Amended) The catheter head of claim 9, wherein an upper side of the cannula housing forms, during insertion of the connecting needle into the first passage, a support and an additional slideway for the needle holder.

12. (Original) The catheter head of claim 11, wherein the upper side is adapted to an underside of the needle holder which is curved in cross direction to said connecting needle, the upper side thus forming said additional slideway.

13. (Original) The catheter head of claim 9, wherein an underside of the needle holder is mould positioned on an upper side of a rear section of the cannula housing during positioning and insertion of the connection needle.

14. (Original) The catheter head of claim 9, wherein the needle holder comprises an upper side symmetrical to its underside, wherein the underside and the upper side are preferably curving outwardly away from each other.

15. (Original) The catheter head of claim 9, wherein a piercing needle for said cannula projects through the cannula housing at an angle to the longitudinal direction of the inserted connecting needle.

16. (Original) The catheter head of claim 9, wherein the cannula includes a frusto-conical seat which receives a portion of the retaining body.

17. (Original) The catheter head of claim 9, wherein the retaining body includes a frusto-conical sealing surface.

18. (Original) The catheter head of claim 9, and further comprising an O-ring disposed between the retaining body and the flange.

19. (Original) The catheter head of claim 9, wherein the retaining body is ultrasonically welded to the interior surface.

20. (Original) The catheter head of claim 9, wherein the cavity defines a ledge and the retaining body includes a flange which cooperates with the ledge to limit axial movement of the retaining body within the cavity.

21-27. (Canceled)

28. (New) The catheter head of claim 9, wherein second passage in the cannula housing points at an angle in relation to the connecting needle when the cannula housing and needle holder are connected.

29. (New) The catheter head of claim 9, wherein the first passage of the cannula housing leads to the second passage of the cannula housing.